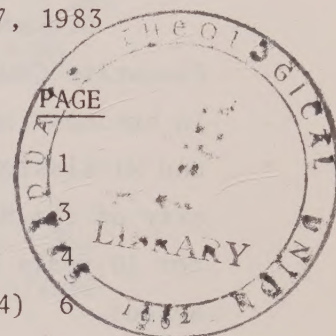


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CONTENTS

- West Tennessee Taps Dickson as First Bishop (83021)
- Easter Message-1983: By The Presiding Bishop (83022)
- Church News Briefs (83023)
- Picture Caption: Episcopalians/Lutherans Share Rite (83024) 6
- Allin Calls TV View on NCCC 'Regrettable' (83025) 7



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WEST TENNESSEE TAPS
DICKSON AS FIRST BISHOP

DPS 83021

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (DPS, Jan. 27) --The Rev. Alex D. Dickson Jr. has emerged from a prolonged election process as the first bishop-elect of the new Episcopal diocese of West Tennessee.

Dickson, rector of All Saints Episcopal School in Vicksburg, Miss., was elected Jan. 22 on the 33d ballot of the new diocese's first annual convention at St. Mary's Cathedral here. After consultation with diocesan officers, he accepted election the following day at a mass at the Cathedral.

His election requires approval from the majority of diocesan bishops and standing committees of the Church and his consecration is not anticipated until after Easter. Bishop W. Fred Gates, who presided at the convention, will continue as interim bishop.

Six names were presented to the convention from its episcopacy committee and an additional seven priests were nominated from the floor at the gathering that opened with a mass Jan. 20. Balloting began shortly after 9 a.m. the

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following day. The convention adjourned late that night to reconvene Saturday morning and finally elect at 11 a.m.

The bishop-elect trailed behind the Rev. Edward Chalfant of Columbus, Ohio and the Rev. George L. Reynolds of Edina, Minn. -- two other official nominees -- and Canon Robert G. Tharp of Memphis who was nominated from the floor until Friday afternoon when he began to pick up support. He won the required two-thirds from the clergy order before the Friday adjournment and was elected by the lay order after five ballots the next day.

Dickson, 56, has been at All Saints since 1968. He was elected to the Executive Council at the September, 1982 General Convention. He holds degrees in business administration and education from the University of Mississippi and Mississippi State College and took his theological training at the University of the South. He was ordained in 1958 and served parishes in Mississippi for 10 years before becoming rector and headmaster of the coeducational high School.

He has been a deputy to three General Conventions, served on the State of the Church Committee from 1976-79 and on the House of Deputies ministry committee at the 1982 meeting. In the diocese, he has been a member, and president, of the standing committee and has served as chairman of the youth and lay training departments.

A native of Mississippi, he was married to Charlotte Nell Parkins in 1948 and they have three children.

West Tennessee was created by authorization of the 1982 General Convention as the first step of a plan that will divide the state of Tennessee into three dioceses. It encompasses the state from the Tennessee to the Mississippi rivers and includes about 10,000 communicants in 34 congregations served by 65 clergy. Gates was suffragan bishop of the former Diocese of Tennessee until the division.

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EASTER MESSAGE - 1983

DPS 83022

By The Rt. Rev. John M. Allin
Presiding Bishop/The Episcopal Church

"On the first day of the week, at early dawn
they went to the tomb, taking the spices
which they had prepared." - St. Luke 24:1 RSV

On Easter Day many Christians -- Episcopalians among them -- will hear the Gospel passage from St. Luke that includes this verse. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Mary the mother of James and perhaps some others who made that early visit to the tomb.

For them it was the first day of another week.

For the world it was the first day of a new age.

The Age of Resurrection is one in which we yet are living. The Light of Resurrection illuminates our journey as Christians and offers hope.

The history of the world is recorded "from age to age." We know something of ages past: the bronze age, the iron age, the ice age. John Naisbitt -- who has been helpful as a speaker at Executive Council and other meetings in the Episcopal Church -- says that we are moving from the industrial age into a new trilateral period: the service age, the communication age and the energy age.


As you hear the Gospel on Easter Day, think of the age in which the events are cast. Think of the age in which we are living. Think of ages yet to come, beyond our most colorful imaginings.

Think of the Gospel.

Act as one who believes it.

Make a life-giving contribution of your life through the community he founded to the Christ who is risen.

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CHURCH NEWS BRIEFS

DPS 83023

TORONTO (DPS, Jan. 27) -- The Most Rev. Howard Hewlett Clark, ninth primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, died here in mid-January at the age of 79. A native of Alberta, he began a fifty-year pastorate in 1930 that culminated in his service as primate and archbishop from 1959 until 1970. On his "retirement," he became chancellor of University of Trinity College. Of his predecessor, the current primate, Archbishop E. W. Scott said, "All of us who were privileged to serve under his inspired leadership remember with awe his calm scholarly manner, and with warmth his wit and charm. Physically he bore much suffering with nobility. One of this generation's most faithful Christian servants has entered a well-earned rest."

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NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 27) -- Presiding Bishop John M. Allin has recommended two books for Lenten reading: *The Authority of the Laity* published by the Alban Institute and *Conversations with the Crucified*, published by the Seabury Press. In the former, Verna Dozier and Celia Hahn focus on a wide range of issues growing out of the burgeoning understanding of lay ministry. The book is a call for both clergy and laity to reclaim their true roles in the church and the world as a way of empowering lay ministers. In *Conversations*, the Rev. F. Reid Isaac, a New York rector, presents a series of meditations on the crucifixion to help the reader see Christ as a companion in the struggles of day-to-day living. Isaac's book is available from the Seabury Service Center, Somers, Conn. at \$6.95. The Dozier book (at \$5.00) is available from the Institute, Mt. St. Albans, Washington, DC 20016. A companion study guide is \$1.50 and postage is \$1.25.

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NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 27) -- Ethnic and tribal disputes have forced approximately 30,000 refugees to mass on the Uganda/Rwanda border, homeless and in need of food and shelter. Regional Church leaders appealed to the relief agencies of the World and National Council of Churches which seek to coordinate relief in the area with staff of OXFAM and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Answering an appeal, the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief has sent an emergency grant of \$5,000 to the fund. Staff officers of the Episcopal Church agency will continue to monitor and assess the needs of the people in the area through the Anglican Churches of both countries.

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BALTIMORE (DPS, Jan. 27) -- A new project for urban church cooperation is being launched here and will be closely watched by church coalitions throughout the country concerned about joblessness, housing and the range of concerns that afflict inner cities. Leaders from 15 Churches -- including the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland -- and two interchurch agencies met here in mid-January to launch a Joint Urban Mission Project that expects to develop action to meet housing, crime, hunger, family life, health, education and congregational resource needs. Coordinated by the Joint Strategy and Action Committee, the model program marks what leaders hope will be a new direction in bringing resources of national Christian bodies to bear ecumenically on the problems of a particular inner-city region.

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NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 27) -- The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief of the Episcopal Church has sent \$3,000 to an ecumenical appeal to help victims of drought in the west African country of Mauritania. The appeal -- from the National Council of Churches Church World Service -- detailed the plight of Mauritians who face crops only one-quarter the usual because of the drought. The funds will be used to import immediately needed foodstuffs and provide assistance to groups and families to carry them past the crisis.

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MENLO PARK, Calif. (DPS, Jan. 27) -- More than 100 people from throughout the Episcopal Church gathered at a conference center here in mid-January to explore the work and plans of the Total Ministry Network and to share skills and concerns about that concept. Keynote speaker for the Conference -- which was sponsored by the Episcopal Church Center's Education for Mission and Ministry staff -- was Nevada Bishop Wesley Friendsdorff in whose diocese a great deal of work and thought on ministry in the 1980s has already gone on. The two-day gathering included skills workshops and discussion on what resources can be developed within the network and what are expected from the national Church. The Rev. John Docker, mutual ministry coordinator at the Church Center, said that results of the conference are being evaluated and will be incorporated into the planning of the network and the work of the Church Center staff.

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ALLIN CALLS TV VIEW
OF NCCC 'REGRETTABLE'

DPS 83025

NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 27) -- A segment of the television program '60 minutes' that purported to be an exploration of the work of the National and World Councils of Churches was called regrettable by Presiding Bishop John M. Allin.

In a statement issued shortly after the Jan 24. airing, Allin said the program gave a "very one-sided and extreme view of the National Council of Churches," and expressed the fear that this would cause confusion "for those who do not know all of the work of the National Council."

"To brush aside," he said, "the positive elements of this organization with the glib statement that these need not be mentioned since such organizations are expected to do good, seems irresponsible."

Citing one incident, Allin noted, "Featuring a clergyman of the Episcopal Church as though he were on the National Council staff is hardly honest when he is not on the staff of the National Council and has not worked within the Episcopal Church since 1968."

The program was felt by many to continue the misapprehension that the ecumenical councils under scrutiny had supported terrorist and Communist activities to which Allin said, "to my knowledge the leadership of the National Council of Churches does not advocate Communism or support terrorism in any form."

The presiding bishop conceded that "of course the National Council is not by any means a perfect organization. The Episcopal Church recognizes this and attempts to improve this cooperative organization of Protestant and Orthodox Churches."

The Episcopal Church takes an active role in the National Council, working closely with overseas relief programs and using ministry and educational resources to supplement Church material where they are helpful. On the governing board, the Church delegation has often worked to reshape policy statements and, occasionally has dissented from them or disassociated the Episcopal Church from those that do not conform to the doctrine laid down through the Church polity and traditions.

"Be it remembered," Allin asked, "that the National Council of Churches does not speak for the Episcopal Church and we frequently dissent from positions and programs of its many groups. We use its services where this is helpful to us and we have our own programs where we can do better." He cited as an example of the latter the domestic refugee settlement programs that are run directly through the Church's Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief.

DPS 83025/2

The presiding bishop assured Church members that "we need this co-operative ecumenical endeavor and will continue to work toward its improvement, while continuing to use its services selectively where it is both to our advantage and to that of the ecumenical movement."

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